

HOUSE BILL 3119

By Gilmore

AN ACT relative to certain signs indicating the jurisdictional limits of
Metropolitan Nashville - Davidson County.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 626 of the Public Acts of 1988, the department of transportation has erected a welcome sign at each of the approximately nineteen (19) points where an interstate, federal, or state highway crosses the boundary of Metropolitan Nashville - Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, also pursuant to Chapter 626 of the Public Acts of 1988, each such sign presently reads:

"Metropolitan Nashville - Davidson County

Home of the Grand Ole Opry"; and

WHEREAS, while Nashville is certainly home to the legendary Grand Ole Opry, the present language on such signs does not truly reflect the breadth and depth of Nashville's musical landscape and heritage; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Nashville being the acknowledged capital of the country music industry, Music City USA also has a large gospel music base and is home to the renowned Fisk Jubilee Singers, who introduced black spiritual music to the world; and

WHEREAS, Nashville also hosts a burgeoning rock music scene and is home to the Nashville Jazz Workshop; and

WHEREAS, Nashville artists have produced some of the finest rhythm and blues and soul music known to humanity, as evidenced by the recent albums and accompanying exhibit at the Country Music Hall of Fame entitled *Night Train To Nashville: Music City Rhythm & Blues*; and

WHEREAS, modifying the language on existing signage to read both "Music City USA" and "Home of the Grand Ole Opry," would more accurately reflect the diversity of Nashville's music industry and its musicians; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-5-108, to the contrary, the department of transportation shall modify the language on existing signage at each point where an interstate, federal, or state highway crosses the boundary of Metropolitan Nashville - Davidson County, so that each such sign reads:

"Metropolitan Nashville - Davidson County

Music City USA

Home of the Grand Ole Opry".

SECTION 2. The modification of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

SECTION 3. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.